



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8  
999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, CO 80202-2466

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**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

John Shaw, Plant Manager  
Asarco, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1230  
East Helena, MT 59635

RE: ASARCO CAMU Approval

Dear Mr. Shaw:

As you are aware, in the Consent Decree between the United States and Asarco, entered in Montana Federal District Court in January 1998, Civil Action No. 98-3-H-CCL, (the "Consent Decree"), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tentatively approved Asarco's corrective action management unit ("CAMU") proposal and committed to come to a conclusion on the proposal as quickly as possible. EPA reviewed the proposed schedule and technical requirements described in the Corrective Action Management Unit Design Report, dated April 1999, as revised July 1999 (together the "Design Report"), and opened a public notice and comment period after receipt of the July 1999 revision.

The public comment period closed on October 15, 1999. EPA received two comments in support of the proposal and no adverse comments.

Upon consideration of the Design Report and public comment EPA hereby approves the CAMU proposal as an "interim measure" under the Consent Decree. Pursuant to paragraph 80 of the Consent Decree, the Design Report is incorporated into the Consent Decree and is hereby made enforceable as a requirement of the Consent Decree. Asarco is to build and manage the CAMU according to the schedule and technical requirements described in the Corrective Action Management Unit Design Report, dated April 1999, as revised July 1999. Deviations from the schedule or design require prior written approval from EPA.




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Should you have any questions, please call Susan Zazzali at (406)441-1130, ext. 226.

Sincerely,

  
William P. Yellowtail  
Regional Administrator

cc: Kerrigan Clough, 8P  
Carol Rushin, 8ENF  
John Wardell, 8MO  
Susan Zazzali, 8MO  
Chuck Figur, 8ENF-L  
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